

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the claims as evidenced in the Office Action dated August 23, 2005. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections to the claims contained therein.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 7, 9-11 and 13-20 have been canceled by this Response. New claims 21-27 have been inserted into the application. Claims 1-6, 8, and 21-27 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been entered by the amendments hereto.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 7 and 8 contain allowable subject matter.

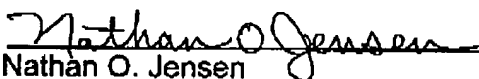
The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, and 9-11 under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,944,025 to Gehring et al. The Examiner also rejected claims 4, 6, and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gehring. Claims 9-11 and 13-20 have been canceled herewith, thereby rendering moot the rejection thereto. With respect to the remaining claims, applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 7, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if so written. Claim 1 is therefore allowable. Claims 2-6 and 8 depend from allowable claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Applicants have inserted new claims 21-27 into the application. Independent claim 21 includes all the limitations of claim 1 and claim 8, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if so written. Claim 21 is therefore allowable. New claims 22-27 include all of the subject matter of claims 2-7, respectively. Claims 22-27 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 21 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons claim 21 is allowable.

Accordingly, with entry of the amendments and consideration of the arguments and remarks contained herein, all pending claims are now allowable, and a notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if further issues remain in the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,


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